

# FACT SHEET



## **Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power Site Norfolk, Nebraska**

**March 2000**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 will conduct soil and ground water sampling at the Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power Former Manufactured Gas Plant site the week of March 20, 2000. The site is located at the southwest corner of Norfolk Avenue (Business Route 275) and 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Norfolk, Nebraska. Two businesses, Peoples Natural Gas Company and Nebraska Public Power District, are located at the site

### **.SITE BACKGROUND**

Until pipelines were constructed in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, natural gas was not available in many parts of the United States. In areas where natural gas was not available, manufactured gas was used as a clean burning fuel for lighting and heating in homes and businesses.

A succession of companies, including Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power, manufactured gas at the site from the early 1900's until the gas plant went out of operation in the late 1940's. It is estimated that 4.6 billion cubic feet of gas was manufactured at the site. During the gas manufacturing process, wastes and by-products such as coal tar residues and sludges, spent oxide waste, and ash materials were also generated and may have been left onsite resulting in soil and ground water contamination. Some of these wastes and by-products are hazardous materials and can cause health and environmental problems if handled improperly.

In June 1992, soil and ground water samples were taken by a contractor for the owner of the property at that time. The sampling was conducted to determine if residual contamination resulting from the gas manufacturing processes remained at the site. Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, benzene, toluene, metals, and other contaminants commonly found in coal tar and other wastes generated during the gas manufacturing process were found in the samples.

### **SUPERFUND PROGRAM**

EPA is conducting further investigation of the site under the Superfund program. Congress established the Superfund program in 1980 in response to growing concerns posed to health and environmental risks posed by hazardous waste sites. Superfund locates, investigates, and cleans up hazardous waste sites. When a potential site is reported to EPA, the site is screened to determine what type of action is necessary. The purpose of the investigation at the Iowa-Nebraska Light &

Power site is to determine whether the ground water in the area of the site is contaminated, to identify any source(s) of contamination, and to evaluate the threat the contamination would potentially have on drinking water supplies in Norfolk.

### **FIELD ACTIVITIES**

EPA will begin sampling at the site beginning the week of March 20, 2000. Soil, ground water, and sediment and water from the sewer will be sampled. Ground water samples will be taken from existing monitoring, municipal, and residential wells near the site. Temporary wells will be utilized to collect necessary samples from areas where no wells are currently located.

Many soil and ground water samples will be collected using a track-mounted Geoprobe®. The Geoprobe® pushes three-foot long sections of pipe into the ground to collect either soil or ground water samples. After the sampling is completed, the holes will be plugged with a clay mixture. EPA will also have its mobile laboratory onsite to analyze samples. The field work is expected to take one and a half weeks.

EPA will review the information from the field work and determine what further action is required at the site.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

If you have questions about this fact sheet or need additional information regarding this site, please contact:

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